



CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

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**OFFICE OF THE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

Reading Fire Marshal Todd Iaeger and members of Engine 1 and Rescue 1 visited a home in the City and installed 10 smoke detectors on every floor in the house. "You have about three minute's maybe to get out of your house during a fire. It's so important to have that early warning from smoke detectors, but knowing what to do when they go off is just as important. All homes need to have a home fire escape plan which teaches everyone to know two ways out of every room in a house. And, it's equally important to practice the home fire escape plan before fire strikes," Iaeger told the home owner. "It's wonderful, I'm extremely impressed with them, with their explanation, it's an educational experience," said the retired Joyce Beckett. The Fire Marshal received a phone call from a home health aide, who alerted him that she had noticed that Mrs. Beckett had no working smoke detectors in her house.

The Fire department has done between 40 and 45 of these installations in about a year and a half. The program was instituted by the State Fire Commissioner's office through a state grant. Originally, the Fire Department started with 400 smoke detectors obtained in a partnership with WFMZ-TV. The department has about 60 left, and they are given out and installed for free to residents who request them. "They can call us up, we get some demographic information, and we'll line them up to get the install done, until our supply is exhausted. The only thing we don't do is subsidize the landlords, because by code they're required to provide smoke detection," explained Iaeger.

Any owner/occupant can contact the Fire Marshal's office to request a fire detector at (610) 655-6080. "It's a benefit for us, because hopefully it's a fire that we don't have to go to, and if it is a fire we have to go to, nobody dies," concluded Iaeger.

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